



Church Family

Wait.—Sometimes the simplest of instructions can be the most difficult to follow. We have spent the past year as a church family (not just here at the Re*Creation Center but also among our other Brothers and Sisters across this reservation) on our knees seeking the Face of God. We have faithfully brought our petitions before His Throne as we cry out together on behalf of the Lakota people, those that we love, with a desire to make the widow in Luke 18 look lazy and disinterested. We are now meeting twice a week for prayer with other believers across the reservation, and prayer has also become priority in our Sunday morning services. It is truly exciting to be a part of what the Holy Spirit is doing here in Oglala. There is Hope in Oglala, and His Name is Jesus!

As a church family, over the last several months, we have been studying the Promises of God, mainly their surety and His Faithfulness. And with these studies, we are coming to the same conclusion of which Abraham was sure, "being fully convinced that God is able to do what He has promised." Moreover, in the midst of these studies, we believe the Holy Spirit has been speaking something very specific to us in regards to these promises, and it is one simple yet loaded word: **wait**. We see that Isaiah 64 says, "No eye has seen a God besides You, who acts for those who wait for Him."

So we wait; we wait on Him to act, to fulfill His Promises and to bring Victory in our lives, our church, and our community. The instructions He gave us are simple to understand but difficult to follow. You see, the waiting that God is speaking of is not the "sitting on our couches, watching television" type of waiting. No, when He tells us to wait, it is similar to a runner crouched down in position on the starting line. The runner is prepared, he has been training, sacrificing, readying himself for this one race, not just to run this race but to win it. Now he stands on the starting line, prepared and ready, eagerly waiting for the starting pistol to fire and the race to begin. It is the "Watchman on the Wall" type of waiting; there is an alertness, an expectancy and a gravity which cannot be ignored. That is the waiting which we as a church have been doing, following the instructions of our Father. So we wait.



We are convinced that the Holy Spirit still speaks to His church today, and we believe that He has given us the same promise He made to King Jehoshaphat in 2 Chronicles 20:17, that The Lord would fight for us, He would bring the Victory in Oglala and across Pine Ridge Reservation and in turn, He would get the Glory as only He should. But in that promise, we receive an instruction for our part to play in this battle, and it is simply: **Wait**. In other words, God is saying to us: "Position yourself (get ready for battle), stand still and see the Salvation of the Lord." We believe this Promise, and—more importantly—we believe the One who made it, so we will position ourselves, we will wait, we will stand still, and we will see the Salvation of the Lord come to Oglala and to the Lakota people.

Please continue to pray with us and know that we appreciate all your support. We really could not do this without you. Thank you.

Sincerely in Jesus, Pastor Eric & Ela Sutton

OASIS Youth Ministry

Mary and I just got back from Germany and it was a good time. One thing I learned is that there is no vacation when you have a baby. ☺ But we enjoyed visiting with her family and friends and even had the opportunity to do some sharing about our ministry in four different German churches.



Back in Oglala, there is an air of expectation around the ministry and the reservation that makes me excited for God to begin speaking into our lives. We are thankful for the many opportunities we have to share His Good News with the Lakota youth. Last Friday night a young man came up to me after devotions and just began talking about some mistakes in his life that left him feeling miserable. I had talked about making friends with our enemies and the mistake he was regretting had made him enemies with his friends. He realized that a man without friends is not a happy man. To me it was a miracle that he came and talked to me about it so openly. God is moving in the hearts of our youth!



was actually looking forward to meet again! There is a huge need for a life-changing encounter with Jesus. Please continue to pray with us that the hearts of our youth are open to His Truth and Life. The teens are studying to find out "Who is Jesus?"—pray that He Himself will answer their question!

Leon & Mary Schwartz, Youth Leaders



Kids' Church

Proverbs 3:24 promises us that, "When you lie down, you will not be afraid; you will lie down, and your sleep will be pleasant". Or, as the KJV puts it, "your sleep will be sweet". Oh sweet sleep!

During a recent sleep-over I was awakened by the piercing screams of a 5 year old girl named Faith. She stood beside her sleeping bag tormented by paralyzing fear of a spider. As I held her in my arms and tried to calm her, she would jerk and jump around, kicking and screaming, trying to get away from the spiders that had invaded her imagination. Finally she lay down beside me and with her face pressed against my face and her arms tight around my neck, her eyes pleaded with me for help. For the following two hours between short periods of fitful sleep, we prayed, sang, rebuked the devil, quoted Bible verses and praised Jesus. When Faith let go of her fear, she was able to focus her eyes on Perfect Love and hold onto God's promise of sweet sleep. God many times tells us to fear not.

Please pray for the children of Oglala as they learn to walk by faith and not walk in fear. Thank you.

Terry & Kathy Michels, Children's Pastors

Royal Rangers

One of the main ideas of Royal Rangers is to connect the men in the church with the boys in the church to create an environment of discipleship and mentoring. We are truly blessed to see this idea come true in our outpost meetings!



For the last three weeks, Shawn Espinosa did some excellent guest teaching on traditional Lakota leathercraft and artwork. The Ranger boys learned how to tan a hide, outline a project, make parfleche and paint their finished artwork in traditional Lakota colors & patterns. What is more, we already have other men lined up to teach the youth what they are most passionate about. We love it when the church is church!

The summer months were also a great time. We went camping a couple times and survived bike rides, flooded tents and even our self-made camp food! ☺



Garden / Running notes

"But those who trust in the Lord will find new strength. They will soar high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint." Isaiah 40:31

I ran my first 5k ever on Sept. 20th 2014. I remember seeing the finish line far up ahead and feeling like I wanted to stop and curl up by the side of the road but I knew I would miss out on the feeling of personal victory that would be mine as I crossed the finish line... so I pressed on. Success!

Sometimes the ministry that God has given me here in Oglala feels like that 5k run and I want to give up and check out before I reach the finish line. Daily I have conversations with kids and adults that are hopeless. They deal with suicidal thoughts, drug and alcohol addiction, abuse, apathy, religious confusion and the list goes on and on. These conversations can sometimes make me feel like I am running with a backpack filled with bricks that is slowing me down. It is easy to take that hopelessness upon myself and give up.

But... I know the one that gives life, freedom, hope. The one who knows the prize that is waiting at the end of the race. JESUS! I am privileged to say that "The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me because the Lord has anointed me to preach good news to the poor, bind up the brokenhearted, proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to comfort all who mourn and to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes (Excerpts from Isaiah 61:1-3). Hallelujah!



Praises:

- A great gardening year with the kids concluding with a fun field trip to Denver with Autumn and Lakota, my most faithful helpers.

- A suicidal teen that has gone from despair to hope (continue to pray for her salvation)

- In recent conversations, God has given me the right words at the right time

Heidi Martin



BULLETIN BOARD

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

More and more do we see how the different churches on Pine Ridge Reservation become ONE body of Christ. It all started with weekly prayer meetings back in January and has grown into something beautiful (one might almost call it a bride getting ready for the arrival of her groom). We have also had a couple services together (see picture) and are experiencing an increase in the prayer meetings. In doing so, the "wait" becomes what God intended it to be—a time of preparation, sanctification, and growth.



Please join in and stay updated through our website www.oglarwc.org

PRAYER REQUESTS

"I know all the things you do, and I have opened a door for you that no one can close. You have little strength, yet you obeyed my word and did not deny me." Revelations 3:8

- ♥ *Please join us in prayer that the bond of unity between churches on the reservation will continue to strengthen. Pray that our "little strength" will shine the Power of God so that Heaven's Doors will open! Pray for faithfulness and unwavering faith during the time of waiting on God to move further.*
- ♥ *For everyone at the Rec Ministry Team for continued love, unity and joy in serving*
- ♥ *For our local church body at the RecCenter that we would not grow weary in our walk but seek Him above all and with all that we have*
- ♥ *For the Oglala community that hearts would be opened and drawn to Jesus*
- ♥ *For our daily/weekly outreaches that we serve and teach with authority and passion and be able to reach many with His Truth*
- ♥ *For the upcoming Christmas Celebration on December 14, 2014 that it will bring Salvation and Hope to those lost in sin and darkness*

Oglala Re*Creation & Worship Center

A LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS



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